

# The Lexington Intelligencer.

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LEXINGTON, LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISSOURI, SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1902.

No 8

## A GOOD MAN GONE TO REST.

### Glowing Tribute to Memory of Rev. R. A. Austin.

#### WAS WITH GEN. PRICE AT LEXINGTON

#### Began Riding a Circuit at Salary of Twenty-Five Dollars Per Year.

After paying a glowing tribute to the memory of the Rev. R. A. Austin, the Carrollton Democrat prints the appended historical sketch of that beloved minister who died at Carrollton recently:

Robert A. Austin was born in Bedford county, Va., September 2, 1835, being the youngest of eleven children, all of whom lived to manhood and womanhood. His father died a month after the birth of the subject of this sketch, leaving the training of this large family of children to the mother. In the fall of 1842, with her large family, Mrs. Austin started for the west, and two months later, November 8, 1842, they reached Carroll county and located in the Sugartree bottoms. The weather during their trip was delightful, but the day following their arrival in this county snow began to fall, the weather became frightfully cold and then followed, perhaps, the most severe winter ever known in the state. Snow lay on the ground to the depth of two feet till the middle of the following April, and the river remained blocked till this time. A log cabin was built on the farm, and here the subject of this sketch grew to manhood and attended school in the old log cabins erected as school houses, and in the same buildings Sunday schools were organized and once or twice a year a preacher would come along. Later he was sent to a high school in Lexington, and the finishing touches to his education were received in a school in Carrollton taught by Capt. Eads and David Ball. Brother Austin's religious training had not been neglected. His mother had always been a devout Presbyterian, and had always desired that he should be a minister of that denomination. While attending school in Carrollton he was invited to a Methodist meeting and was converted and at the same time he was convinced that he was called to enter the ministry. He felt a desire to join the Methodist church, but the decision to do so was only made after much secret prayer in a lonely place where the home in which he lived so long was afterwards built. In July, 1855, at a district conference held in DeWitt, he was granted a license to preach, and the coming fall he was admitted to the annual conference and was given the Trenton Mission as junior preacher. He started from his old home for his first appointment on an old mule, carrying with him a blanket under which he slept at night. The mission consisted of twenty-eight regular appointments, embracing part of five counties, and for the first year's labor he received \$25 in money. The following year he was given a work of his own—Bethany circuit, and from this time on his work prospered and ere long he occupied a prominent position in the conference. For forty years thereafter he continued to preach the gospel in all parts of Missouri, and under his ministry thousands were converted.

While stationed in Chillicothe in 1859—on April 24, he was united in marriage to Miss Thille E. Williams, who with six children—Dr. C. S. Austin, of this city, H. W. Austin, of St. Louis, Dr. R. E. Austin, now in Cuba, Edward Austin, of Texas, Fla., and Miss Fannie Austin, of this city, survive him.

During the civil war, when the war fever was so high in this section, Mr. Austin was compelled to abandon his calling for a time. He went to Lexington, was appointed chaplain in Price's army and remained in that position till Gen. Price left the state in May, 1865, he started to Montana, having charge of a large pack train. This trip across the plains was a perilous one, as they passed came

after camp that had been attacked by the Indians and the entire train burned and the trainmen murdered. The trip lasted thirteen months and upon his return to Missouri he again resumed his work in the conference until compelled to locate on account of ill health. In 1885 he suffered a fracture of one of his limbs, and not having recovered sufficiently to take a new work when conference met, he decided to locate at least temporarily. During the ensuing year he was taken sick and for three years his life was almost despaired of. However, he finally recovered partial strength and filled many appointments throughout the county.

December 31, 1890, while returning from a trip to the country, he was thrown from his buggy near the residence of James H. Minnis. It was a cold, rainy evening, and he lay at the side of the road, unconscious, until discovered by the Misses Wynn, who were passing by. They notified Mr. Minnis, who assisted Mr. Austin to his house, where his wounds were dressed. The wounds received in this accident were many bruises, one ear almost torn from his head, and a violent concussion of the spine. He never recovered from the injury to his spine; in fact, it indirectly resulted in his death.

Two years ago he complained of rheumatic pains in his limbs, and nearly a year ago a small tumor developed above his hip. This gradually grew until his physicians decided an operation was necessary. Since then this tumor has been a continual drain upon his system and his vitality gradually ebbed away. The latter part of September he was taken suddenly ill with a violent chill and these recurred with great frequency and several times his life was despaired of. He made a brave struggle, but each recurrence found him weaker. The last one came Monday afternoon between 3 and 4 o'clock, and at 6:15 the tired body gave up the fight and the spirit took its flight.

Thus closed the life of one of the best and most useful men who ever lived in Carroll county. For having lived here, our community was made better; through the influence of his life our community was lifted upon a higher spiritual plane. It is such men as these that we can ill spare; in his death the community has sustained a loss that is irreparable, and which will be realized more and more as the years go by, yet the influence of the life he lived will last forever.

Of the eleven brothers and sisters, of whom the deceased was the youngest, only three are left—Mrs. Lucy Ball, Mrs. Esther Heston and William Austin, four brothers and sisters having died almost within the past twelve months.

#### Will Get Another Depot.

It now seems almost certain that Lexington will get a new depot, and that it will be located at the foot of Tenth street. Inasmuch as fast passenger trains are to be put on the river route this will prove a great convenience to the people of this city. The railroad company will build the depot but expects the town to furnish the lot, which will no doubt be done.

It also seems certain that extensive terminals will be put in at Myrick, but no additional depot will be built there. The present branch depot will be maintained.

The river route, when completed, is going to greatly benefit Lexington.

#### Judge Hagood to Retire.

To the Voters of the Eastern Judicial District of Lafayette County, Mo.

As the time for making nominations is drawing near, and not wishing to again be a candidate for the honorable office of county judge, I think it my duty to make it known at this time in order to give those who may have aspirations time to act. It is with regret that I make this announcement, but with all deference and respect for your wishes and reasons that do not concern anyone but myself, I think it best to make this statement. I thank you for your loyalty and the courteous treatment you have accorded me as your representative.

JOSEPH B. HAGOOD.

Street pass, bulk seed, rice election, at Chas. W. Loomis.

## THE FIRST CLASH OF NAVAL IRONCLADS.

### An Eye-Witness Talks of the Merrimac-Monitor Fight During the Civil War.

#### SAYS THAT THE MERRIMAC WAS NOT WHIPPED

#### A Most Interesting Narrative of That Memorable Event Given by Man Present.

There lives in Kansas City a man who was an eye witness to the first engagement between iron-clad naval vessels in the history of this country—the meeting of the Merrimac and Monitor, just forty years ago last Saturday. That man is Captain A. Atkinson, who was in the confederate service at that time. He is now a member of the police force in the Kaw city. Recently, in referring to this memorable war event Capt. Atkinson said:

"I belonged to the Thirtieth North Carolinas, Scales' regiment—the same Scales so highly praised by Lee at Gettysburg. Our brigade commander was General R. E. Coulston, who afterwards went to the Soudan, after the war closed. Our company and another one had been ordered to Todd's Point, on Hampton roads, to man a battery. This battery was erected by General R. L. Page, who died last summer at the age of 94. I had enlisted in the crew for the Merrimac, but the crew was all made up before my name was reached, and I couldn't join it. While at the battery Lieutenant Hunter, my commanding officer, who was my personal friend, asked me if I wanted some extra duty. He said I could take five men and go to one of the signal stations which we had established along the James river, from Norfolk up. I took the men and went to the station, which was five miles south of Newport News. There we spent our time making the place secure. We had brought fine United States field glass from the son of the keeper of the light, which was in the middle of the river. He was supposed to be a union man and we were afraid of him. His son sold us the glass for \$25. We had it mounted and took turns in watching it.

"I remember the day very well; it was more like an Indian summer day than anything else. We were digging a cellar in the hill side and we could see the United States vessels in the harbor. The vessels had wash day then, and the clothes of the men were hanging out to dry, and the ships were not in fighting trim at all. "A little fellow named Billy Campbell was at the glass. About 1 o'clock he shouted: 'Come here; see what this is.' I went and saw that it was the Merrimac. We were expecting her. I told the rest, and we watched her come out. She was a strange looking craft. She was an old United States vessel, you remember, which they had burned to the water when they burned the Norfolk navy yard. She had been coated with railroad iron and slushed down with grease. We watched her come out of the river, and then she steamed for the Cumberland. To do this she had to steam right under the guns of the fort to keep the channel. You see she drew twenty-three feet of water. The United States men 'o' war did not seem to see her, and even caught napping, I believe. The fortress opened up on her with guns, but the shot had no effect whatever. She went right on, and steamed out and then rammed the Cumberland. We, in the meantime, had taken our boat and put out into the harbor, and we were about a mile from the two vessels when they met. I'll never forget that sight as long as I live. It was terrible.

"The first shot had been fired by the Beaufort, which, with the Raleigh, had accompanied the Merrimac down the river. The Merrimac had passed the United States ship Congress, and went down the river to him, she drawing too much water to permit of this elsewhere. After doing so the bow of the Cumberland offered her a fair show and she plunged right at it. The Merrimac had only old engines, which were in her when she was

burned, and which had been patched up. She could make only five miles an hour, remember. But she had an iron prow four feet long under the water, and her great feat was to ram. So she made right for the Cumberland, and struck her full on the starboard prow.

"From where I was, a mile away—some of the shot passed over me—I could see the vessels come together, and at first it seemed that both must sink. The spars of the Cumberland showed that she was careening within five minutes after she was struck, and in fifteen minutes she went to the bottom. I thought our ship was going, too, for she had caught that iron prow in the wooden sides of the Cumberland and could not break loose at first. But she backed her engines and finally managed to pull away. But she left her iron prow in the United States vessel.

"The Merrimac then kept on up the river, to turn, and evidently the Congress thought she was going away, for she paid no more attention to her. But after she turned and bore down on the Congress again that vessel saw that she was in for it. The fate of the Cumberland warned her, so she started to get away. But she grounded and stuck. She had slipped her cable in her haste to get away. The Merrimac opened fire on her and she surrendered. But in the meantime the Merrimac had opened on the shore batteries and put many of them out of the fighting.

"The Yankees fired on us when we had accepted the surrender of the Congress, and were removing their wounded, so the Merrimac fired hot shot at her and set her afire about 7 o'clock that evening. She blew up about 1 o'clock Sunday morning.

"That ended things for Saturday, and showed that there was not a wooden vessel afloat that could tackle our Merrimac. I forgot to say that we had fired at the Minnesota, which had come into the game, but had stranded about a mile off. She was left there for the night, and the Merrimac returned to her anchorage.

"We went back to our station, but we didn't sleep much that night. The day had been one of the most peculiar I had ever known. The yellow haze was over everything, and at first there was no sound from the guns at a little distance. This was a peculiar atmospheric condition which I have never known since. After the fight was well on, however, we could hear the firing very plainly.

"Sunday we were up very early, for with the rise of the tide we knew that the Merrimac would go after the Minnesota and the other United States ships. The shores were lined with thousands of people, all looking at the battle. We put out in our little boat and saw it from the water. The Merrimac came out to attack the Minnesota, and from out behind that vessel came the Monitor. We couldn't make out what the thing was at first, and as you know, our men called it a 'Yankee cheesebox.' That is just what it looked like.

"The Merrimac fired at her, and she returned the fire but neither seemed to have any effect. The Merrimac finally seemed to be trying to fight the Minnesota without regard to the Monitor, as she was not harming any one. But the Merrimac was run aground, two miles from the Minnesota. The Monitor only drew eleven feet and she circled all around the Merrimac firing at will. This lasted about twenty minutes; then the Merrimac got afloat again, and after some clever work, she rammed the Monitor. But of course she did not have her iron prow; still, the impact was something terrible. If she had had her prow, she would have lifted the Monitor clean out of the water. As it

was, that ended the fight, for the Monitor, shivering to the ends, left the battle and went under the guns of the fort, where she stayed. The Merrimac continued to fire on the Minnesota, and very badly damaged her, but with the flood tide she went back to her anchorage, fearing that she would be left in the mud if she did. That ended the battle.

"There is no use to tell me that the Merrimac was defeated in that fight. I saw it with my own eyes, and she was not defeated at all. She drove the Monitor to seek shelter, and she stayed out in the fight for several hours longer. We never did get another chance at the Monitor and yet we tried. I know that if the Merrimac had not lost her nose in that first battle, Saturday, she would have shoved the Monitor clear out of the water.

"That was forty years ago, and yet the whole thing is as vivid to me as if it were today. It was a memorable event in the world's history, and I am glad I saw it. But I know the history of the fight, and no one can ever tell me that it was 'the victory of the Monitor,' for it was not; the Monitor was whipped and left the fight, and never did get into it again."

Captain Atkinson fought all through the war, and was discharged honorably at its end. He is now a member of the Kansas City police force, and though he is over 60 years old, he is still one of the best and most active members among the lot.

#### COUNTY COURT PROCEEDINGS.

#### Jurors for the April term of the Circuit Court, Etc.

At the March term of the county court the following jury was drawn to serve for the April term of the circuit court of Lexington:

Clay township—Geo. W. Fishback, H. W. McNeal and C. M. Bowring.

Davis—M. L. Belt, Jr., John R. Reed and Harry Leary.

Dover—H. H. McDaniel, George Allender and John Wyatt Lewis.

Freedom—Otto Everett, Ed. Warden and F. W. Vogt.

Lexington—Charles Toebner, L. W. Brelsford and Robert Hale.

Middleton—S. G. Brown, John Zeyling and G. D. Hall.

Washington—O. A. Fulton, William Greene and Barnett Higgins.

Sol-a-bar—E. W. Wagoner, E. S. Gann and John W. Barnside.

B. D. Weedon was ordered to view bridge in section 21, township 48, range 26; also in 30, 49, 26, and report on condition of same at the next term of the court.

Commissioner Weedon was also ordered to view and report on condition of iron bridge near the farm of W. B. Ross; the bridge in 34-35, 51, 24 and also on bridge near the farm of Samuel Gillman.

D. P. Thornton was ordered as commissioner to make deed to 40 acres of land to Harry Holland.

Commissioner Weedon was instructed to build bridge one mile south of Odessa Cemetery.

#### Baptist College Entertainment.

The young ladies of the Baptist college entertained a large audience Monday night with the two act comedy, "Mr. B. B." The play was a success in every way and quite a nice sum was realized. Below we give the cast:

Philip Rayson, fond of boat racing, Etta Rice.

Robert Brown, law clerk, who came down, Blanche Kelley.

Jenkins, a butler, Nina Martin.

Rebecca Lake, fond of cats, Edith Powell.

Katherine Rogers, her niece, Maude McIntyre.

Marion Bryant (Bob), Katherine's friend, Lucy McLane.

Patty, stage-struck maid, Jessie Cooper.

#### An Easter Market.

The Aid Society of the Christian church are preparing for an Easter Market, to be given March 27th. They will sell all kind of goods from a hand saw to a point lace handkerchief. Meals served all hours of the day for 25 cents. Location of market given later.

Mrs. Sarah M. Russell and son, J. G. Russell spent Friday at Kansas City.

## ONLY ONE BALLOT TAKEN.

### C. W. Hamlin, of Greene County, Nominated for Congress.

#### DEFEATING JUDGE JAMES COONEY.

#### Gov. Dockery Was Present and Made a Speech—A Harmonious Convention.

C. W. Hamlin, of Greene county, was nominated for congress on the first and only ballot at Sedalia Wednesday. The vote stood 44 for Hamlin and 42 for Judge Cooney, of Saline. The Hamlin vote was cast by the counties of Greene, Polk, Benton and Lafayette. Howard, Saline, Pettis and Hickory went to Judge Cooney. On Tuesday there was considerable talk at Sedalia about a contesting delegation from Polk, but it failed to materialize and there was not an inharmonious event connected with entire proceedings of the convention.

The convention was called to order shortly after 11 o'clock by O. T. Hamlin, chairman of the congressional committee. J. H. Rhodes, of Pettis, was named as temporary chairman and Herman Pufahl, of Polk county, for temporary secretary. The committee on permanent organization continued Mr. Rhodes as chairman, but substituted R. H. Womack of the INTELLIGENCER for permanent secretary.

The committee on resolutions submitted the following report, which was unanimously adopted:

We, the democracy of the seventh congressional district, hereby reaffirm our allegiance to the cause of democracy, and especially to the entire platform of our first national convention held in Kansas City.

We hereby express our gratitude at being able to point with especial pride to the democratic administrations of Missouri, from Silas Woodson down to and including our present administration, and we particularly desire to point to the present administration, both financially and otherwise.

We express our full confidence in Governor Dockery's administration and the splendid condition of our state affairs at this time.

We wish to express our confidence in our representation in congress and their stand as taken on all matters that have come before them, and heartily endorse their actions.

We condemn in particular the imperial policy of the republican party, which has plunged us into the unrighteous and unjust war with our allies in our recent war with Spain—a war which is being carried on in denial of the principles of the rights of all people to govern themselves, to uphold which principles the people of the Philippine islands were mainly inspired by the example of democratic forefathers.

While the committees were out looking after their respective duties ringing democratic speeches were made by Governor Dockery and Hon. E. M. Richmond, of Howard county.

Following the nomination of Mr. Hamlin, Judge Cooney addressed the convention pledging his earnest support to the nominee and a similar speech was made by Hon. E. M. Richmond, who spoke in behalf of the Howard county democracy.

Mr. Hamlin made a happy speech, thanking the convention for the honor conferred.

#### The New County Committee.

The newly elected county central committee for the democratic party met at Higginsville Monday and organized by electing Horace F. Blackwell chairman and S. B. Thornton secretary.

The committee is composed of the following gentlemen:

Clay township—R. L. Mann, P. W. Osborn and C. Y. Ford.

Davis—A. Althoff, B. T. Canterbury and Peachy Rhodes.

Dover—Wm. Bell, R. P. Harwood and H. H. McDaniels.

Freedom—S. D. Fox, W. W. Downing and J. M. Handley.

Lexington—Horace F. Blackwell, Min C. McFadin and James Jordan.

Middleton—Wood McGraw, L. E. Johnson and H. S. Herbert.

Washington—George Pattenburg, Oscar Filler and John VanMeier.

Sol-a-Bar—B. L. Groom, N. M. Houx and J. L. Berry.

Dwight and tall bastards seed, bulk, at Chas. W. Loomis.